

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application.

The following Groups of claims have been distinguished, as follows, by the Examiner:

- Group I: Claims 1-5 drawn to products of the formula (I), classified in various subclasses 544, 546, 548, and 549;
- Group II: Claims 6-9 drawn to mixtures of the formula (Ia), classified in various subclasses of classes 544, 546, 548, and 549;
- Group III: Claims 10-13 drawn to a process for the preparation of products of the formula (I), classified in various subclasses of classes 544, 546, 548, 549;
- Group IV: Claims 14 and 15 drawn to a process for the preparation of mixtures comprising the formula (Ia), classified in various subclasses of class 544, 546, 548, and 549;
- Group V: Claim 16 drawn to products of the formula VI, classified in various subclasses of class 544, 546, and 548;
- Group VI: Claims 17-21 drawn to a process for the preparation of fluorinated compounds, classified in various subclasses of class 544, 546, 548, and 549; and
- Group VII: Claim 22 drawn to a process for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions, agrochemicals or liquid crystals of fluorinated compounds, variously classified in class 514.

Applicants hereby elect Group I with traverse for the reasons stated below. In addition, as required by the Office Action for the purposes of examination, the Applicants also elect the compound of claim 1 defined by 1,1- difluoro-N, N-2,2 tetramethyl 1-propanamine.

As stated, the Applicants traverse the Restriction Requirement. Claims 1-5, including the entire scope of the defined substituents, can be examined in its entirety without placing an undue burden on the Office. It is respectfully submitted that the

CH7988

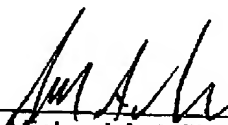
compounds of formula 1 relate to difluoroamines and the process of making such, classified under class 532. The Office Action recites that the compounds of claim 1 fall under classes 544, 546, 548, and 549. According to the PTO records, all of these classes are an integral part of class 532, which would not require undue burden on the Office to search the general class of compounds covered by claim 1, i.e., amines. Therefore, the Applicants request withdrawal of the restriction requirement requiring the prosecution of one compound of formula I and request that the entire scope of the formulas of claim 1 be considered.

Moreover, in the event that product claims of Group I are found allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of Group III (claims 10-13) be rejoined in the instant application as they are directed to a process for the preparation of the compounds of claim 1. See MPEP §821.04(b).

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement in view of the forgoing is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Michael A. Miller
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 50,732

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LANXESS Corporation
111 RIDC Park West Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1112
(412) 809-2232
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:
(412) 809-1054

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9